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TURKISH COAL PRODUCTION STATISTICS

Comment: On 16 December 1952, Zafer published a speech delivered by Sitki Yircali, Minister of State Enterprises, in which he described production, distribution, and consumption of coke and coal in Turkey. It may be significant that coal is now being allocated to more areas of Turkey than in the past. Also significant may be the fact that measures are being taken to extend the use of Turkish unrefined petroleum to replace coal and lignite. A summary of the minister's statement follows.

It has been necessary to make some revisions in the semicoke factory in Zonguldak. It has therefore become necessary for the Second Coke Factory in Karabuk to fill in this gap in the production of semicoke. Moreover, the coke delivery dates which this factory had established have now been advanced.

To relieve the fuel crisis of the citizens of Ankara and Istanbul, coal and lignite now held in the storage areas of these cities will be distributed to the people.

Coal allocations this year are 100,000 tons greater than those of last year. Despite the upswing in economic development generally seen in the country and despite the fact that the Turkish State Railways system is constantly growing, coal is being allocated this year to such regions as Kars and Agri, which have never previously received any coal. In addition to this, allocations have been doubled and even tripled for certain other regions which heretofore received only token allocations.

As a result of measures taken by ship owners, the Ministry of State Enterprises, and State Railways officials one week ago, an all-time-high daily record of 11,548 tons of coal has been shipped out from the Zonguldak coal basin. In addition to this, 250 tons of coal are now transported daily, from Zonguldak to Istanbul by railroad and 500 tons of lignite via state highways.

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A decline of 17,745 tons has occurred in the amount of salable lignite produced. The reason for this is that up to last year, there was no lignite-washing machinery, and the lignite was shipped directly from the mine. However, this year, washing machinery was installed and is now in use. This washed lignite is of higher quality than the unwashed type, but it can not be produced as rapidly. The decline in production, however, was not reflected on the market, since this year's lignite shipments to consumption areas exceeded last year's figure by 16,503 tons.

We are making simultaneous efforts to increase production and reduce consumption of coal in Turkey, and to the latter end, we are planning to use unrefined petroleum from the Raman and Batman petroleum deposits to furnish power for all industrial establishments in the eastern regions of Turkey. We are also taking measures to insure that all lines of the State Railways will use unrefined petroleum in place of coal. A significant savings in coal will be made at the end of 1953 when certain equipment ordered from abroad arrives, enabling the State Railways to begin immediate use of unrefined petroleum. We have also contacted lignite-mine operators recently in an effort to determine their technical and financial needs with a view toward increasing lignite production.

The possibility of deriving benefits from coal through production of nylon is dependent on development of our chemical industry and on the possibilities of financing such a large establishment.

Foundations for the coal-washing machinery which will be installed at the Zonguldak basin are almost completed. Due to a steel shortage, a delay has occurred in the construction of coal-washing equipment which has been ordered from England.

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